

The Concept of “Sustainability of Development of the Territory” in Relation to Mountainous Areas

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Abstract. At the moment, the mountainous territories of the Russian Federation, whose area occupies a significant part of the country, are not endowed with a special status in terms of institutional understanding of their specific features and conditions for socio-economic development. The conflict lies in the fact that, on the one hand, mountainous areas are part of a subject that has all the regulatory and legal powers regarding the formation of a strategic development plan, and on the other hand, the lack of a normatively fixed interpretation of the features of mountainous areas does not allow special conditions for the formation of special indicators their development. In this regard, the development of the author's vision for the definition of "sustainable development" of mountain territories is a necessary condition for further improvement of the process of strategic management at the regional level.

1 Introduction

The past year 2022 was declared the year of the development of mountain territories at the international level, which indicates the importance of studying this type of territory. In the Russian Federation, more than 43% of the territory belongs to the category "Mountainous areas", which are administratively represented in 43 subjects of the country. The relevance of studying the aspects of sustainability of these territories is due to the fact that the specific features of the socio-economic development of mountain regions have not yet been defined in Russian legislation, which means that it is necessary to determine the order of segmentation and the specificity of their development in the context of sustainable development. Considering the large territorial size of mountainous territories, ensuring optimal conditions for the life of the population in them and the development of production activities are becoming the main targets of economic policy both at the regional and federal levels. The most important task is to form a theoretical and methodological basis for identifying the conditions and factors that determine the conceptual approach to managing the sustainable development of mountain areas in order to achieve a socio-economic effect from the resources expended. The object of the study is the process of socio-economic development of mountain areas in the context of increasing its stability and manageability.

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The subject of the study is a set of theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of the strategy for sustainable development of mountain areas. The purpose of the study is to develop theoretical and methodological approaches to the formation of the concept of sustainable development of mountain territories based on the formed system of basic and specific principles that contribute to the activation of this process.

2 Research Methodology

As part of the study, the author used a set of techniques and general principles of scientific research, the laws of economic science, traditional economic methods: monographic, method of expert assessments, statistical, experimental, abstract-logical, etc. The theoretical basis of the study is the scientific works of domestic and foreign economists devoted to the problems of ensuring the sustainability of the development of mountainous areas. The research methodology contains at its core a systematic approach using the methods of dialectics (when studying the theoretical foundations of sustainable development of mountain territories), system analysis and generalization (when forming a system of principles for sustainable regional development). Various well-known scientists were engaged in the development of this topic, among which are: M. Di Wang, Fangyu Ding, Jingying Fu, Dong Jiang [1]; Wei Zhong [2, pp. 447-455.]. The methodology of evolution and spatial sustainable development has found its development in the works of such modern scientists as: Limeng Ying [3.] and others.

3 Results and Discussions

The Russian Federation is a unique federal entity, characterized by a special composition of the subject, diametrically different in their environmental, social, national, resource characteristics, which together creates the need for a differentiated management policy for these territories, and also determines the different levels of resilience of regions to external and internal transformations.

The concept of regional development of the Russian Federation is based on the differentiation of subjects, which is studied by many researchers. The existing gradations of Russian entities are largely determined by a multicomponent methodology, which includes both the basic factors of division (ecology, economy, social sphere and technological development) and relative characteristics in terms of the level of development (highly developed, intensively developing, medium developed, underdeveloped) [7]. However, the differentiation of the subjects of Russia according to these characteristics cannot be fully projected onto mountainous territories, since they are unique in their natural and recreational characteristics, which largely form the conditions for their socio-economic development.

The priority of the regional level in the general concept of sustainable development of mountain areas has led to the emergence of an objective need for the formation of a theoretical and methodological base on the problems of substantiating the need to form a theoretical basis and categorical apparatus in order to ensure the effectiveness of the applied regional development strategies. The current strategies for the socio-economic development of the regions are characterized by stereotyped and low performance due to objective and subjective factors [8]:

- the development of a strategy is objectively biased, since its development completely copies the directions of the Concept of socio-economic development of the Russian Federation, without taking into account the specifics of regional development;
- the technical development of a strategic document is often carried out by specialized consulting companies that are not directly related to production activities and do not know

"from the inside" regional problems;

- discussion and adoption of the strategy is formalized;
- direct producers of the regional product do not participate in the process of discussing and finalizing the strategy;
- Changes in strategic documents, due to changing external and internal business conditions, take quite a long time and, as a result of adoption, lose their relevance.

These factors indicate the lack of effectiveness of the overall system of strategic planning in the Russian Federation, however, it is necessary to point out the main constraint - there is no normatively fixed concept of "mountain territories". It is this regulatory incident that is the main obstacle to the formation of special approaches to strategizing mountain regions, the uniqueness of which should be fully taken into account when developing management development programs.

The traditional categories of sustainable development currently used in regional studies do not allow to fully take into account the peculiarities of the socio-economic development of mountainous areas [9]. The main requirement for the dynamic and efficient development of the regions is sufficient, timely and reliable information about the conditions of their functioning and development features, means and methods for solving urgent problems.

Given the multidimensional nature of the formation of specific conditions for the development of mountain territories, it is necessary to determine the categorical essence of "sustainable development of mountain territories". In this regard, it is necessary to synthesize two fundamental definitions - "Mountain Territory" and "Sustainable Development". As a generally accepted concept of "mountainous territories", one can cite the European interpretation - "These are territories where 80% of the area is located at an altitude of 600 meters and above, and the border of cultivated land is at least 400 meters."

The interpretation of "sustainable development" as a category implies its evolutionary process, which, in addition to dynamic development, is also characterized by some hierarchy. For example, the sustainable development of one single territory (subject of the Russian Federation) is, in turn, part of the sustainable development of macroterritories. The main goal of the sustainable development of the regional system is to improve the quality and standard of living of the population based on the innovative development of the socio-economic system of management while maintaining the reproductive potential of the natural complex of the region, as well as the technological potential in the interests of present and future generations.

When determining the category of "sustainable development" of territories, a multidimensional approach should be applied, since it should provide for the achievement of the following goals:

- reducing the differentiation of the country's population in terms of the level and quality of life;
- social equality of all members of society;
- ensuring positive dynamics of development of all territories;
- increasing the efficiency of the resources used;
- development of the scientific and technical process;
- preservation of natural and ecological resources of territories.

Despite the rather extensive experience in the development of Russian strategic documents for the development of territories, so far not a single document can be applied to the mining segments in full. At the moment there are only fragmentary blocks that characterize mainly the recreational development of mountainous areas. International experience in the use of mountainous areas indicates their extensive potential in production activities, which is as follows:

- the presence of high mountain pastures to obtain an environmentally friendly product of the livestock industry;

- the presence of mineral sources of drinking water, which are the basis for obtaining an industrial volume of drinks;
- availability of energy resources in the form of forests, solar energy, geothermal sources;
- availability of balneological resources for the formation of a medical and preventive base;
- the presence of a large number of minerals;
- Availability of recreational areas for the development of resorts.

The formation of an understanding of the "sustainability" of the development of mountain territories should be based on the fact that, unlike the usual socio-economic system, the principle of environmental conservation should prevail here, as well as the principle of increased labor intensity of the organization of the production process. In addition, mountain territories are characterized by a rather conservative type of ethnographic development, so that when drawing up a development strategy, national, demographic, and historical features of the territories should be taken into account. Conservatism is one of the main limiting factors in the social development of the mountainous territories of the Russian Federation, which is expressed in the low level of literacy of the population, insufficient information content, etc.

Taking into account the indicated features of the development of the object of study, it can be concluded that in order to form a full understanding of the category "sustainable development of mountain territories", a combination of general and specific principles of regional management is necessary, which can be schematically represented as follows (Fig. 1).

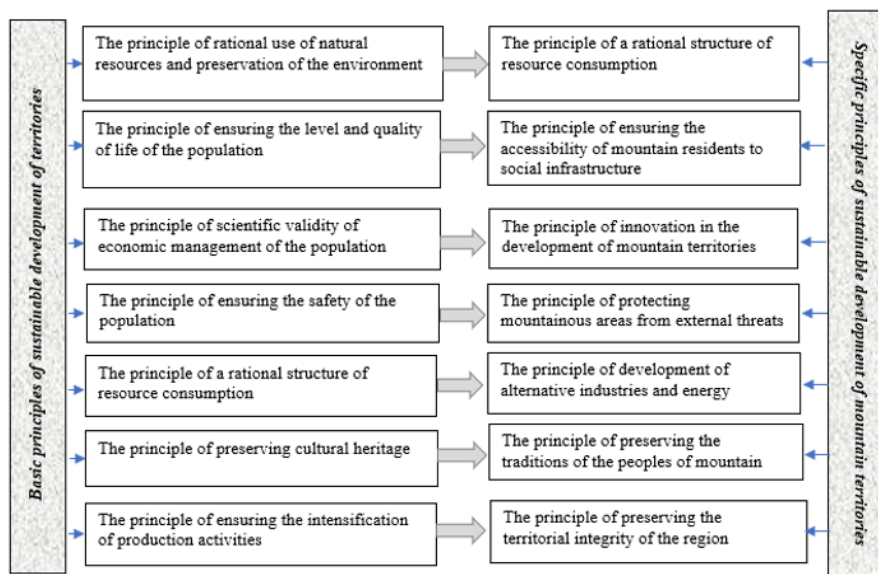


Fig. 1. Systematization of the principles of sustainable development of mountain territories

The principles of sustainable development of mountain territories are based on the generally accepted principles of management activities of socio-economic systems, however, the specification manifests itself in literally all areas of development of these territories, from institutional (regarding the normative fixing of the status of "mountainous territory") to environmental, given the uniqueness of mountain ranges.

At the head of the system of formation of the principles of sustainable development is the ecological basis of mountain territories, which, due to its specificity and significance, must

be preserved [10]. Mountain ranges are not only a source of natural resources, but also a natural barrier that ensures climatic processes that determine the nature of land use. In addition, the world's supply of drinking water is concentrated in mountain ranges, so the preservation of glaciers is an a priori task of management. It is the ecological nature of mountainous areas that forms the socio-economic basis for the development of these territories. An important aspect is also the rationality of consumption and extraction of natural resources, since it is necessary to pursue a policy of renewability in relation to resources to which this applies and a policy of optimal consumption in relation to non-renewable resources. Protecting the interests of the ecological safety of mountain territories should be decisive in all programs of strategic development.

The principles of the social sphere are aimed at solving demographic problems and improving the quality of life of the population. Traditionally, the mountainous regions of the North Caucasus are characterized by a high birth rate, which is due to the ethnographic mentality and religious traditions. Despite the large population in the subjects of the North Caucasus Federal District, nevertheless, the problem of one of the lowest living standards persists, namely in mountainous areas. This is largely due to the large territorial fragmentation of residence, the lack of educational and medical infrastructure, as well as the inaccessibility of places of residence in these areas.

The basic rule for ensuring the sustainability of territorial development is the preservation of available resources in full for future generations in order to ensure that all needs are met on the basis of a balanced socio-economic development of territories.

The development of mountain territories should be based on an innovative component arising from the existing conditions of scientific and technical development. The factor of innovation is today one of the fundamental pillars of regional policy, since the influence of the sanctions regime forced the activation of internal processes aimed at improving the country's security. In many respects, the principle of intensification of production is also connected with this, which is due both to a reduction in federal funding for regional development programs, as a result of which it is necessary to redistribute regional resources, and to the limited territories of mountainous regions, as a result of which the extensive path of development of production is simply not applicable in them. It should also be noted that any innovative developments require additional funding, which means that it is necessary to identify sources for obtaining additional financial resources.

The basis for ensuring the economic policy of regional development is the understanding that ensuring the welfare of the population largely depends on the level of economic performance of economic activity, that is, it is necessary to take into account the balance of social and economic spheres in the formation of strategic documents. In addition, the consolidation by the Constitution of the Russian Federation of equal benefits and living conditions for the population throughout the country makes the development of strategies for the development of mountainous areas more difficult due to the fact that it is often not possible to ensure equal living conditions for residents of lowland and mountainous territories.

In relation to all the above principles, it is necessary to define as an obligatory condition the concept of efficiency, which, in view of its multidimensionality, can manifest itself in any field and activity, but is the main determining criterion for the effectiveness of sustainable development.

The presented classification of principles is a model one and can be transformed depending on the specificity of the territorial system, can be supplemented taking into account the changing external and internal conditions of development, and can be adapted to institutional transformations. A distinctive feature of the presented system of principles is their consistency, multidimensionality, mobility and replenishment.

The main aspects of the development of mountain territories are concentrated at the

regional level. Currently, only the subjects of the North Caucasian Federal District have documents on the strategic development of mountainous territories, but their stereotyped nature makes them not effective enough. Considering that, to one degree or another, mountainous territories are located in 43 constituent entities of the Russian Federation, one has to talk about the underdevelopment of understanding by the institutional sphere of the need to develop and use specific tools for drawing up programs for the development of such territories.

The regions with mountainous territories, at the present stage, are forced to locally solve the problems of socio-economic development, using only their own documents regulating the functioning of mountainous territories. In such a situation, the possibility of subjectivity appears in solving identical problems in different territories, which later can be considered as an element of inefficiency and corruption of regional authorities.

The regions of the North Caucasus (Dagestan, North Ossetia-Alania, Ingushetia, the Chechen Republic), which have a large percentage of mountain ranges in their territorial volume, have long been working to systematize and update legislation regarding the strategic development of mountainous areas. However, the disunity of the institutional vision for the current problems of the socio-economic development of the territories makes the work of the subjects not effective enough, it requires consistency and manageability from the federal level of authorities that can ensure the parity of institutional rights.

The problems of balanced sustainable development of mountain territories were studied from the standpoint of the unity of the economic space of the Russian Federation, that is, in the context of equal provision of conditions and factors that form the life support environment for the population. The given theoretical basis for understanding the specifics of the sustainable development of mountain areas made it possible to form the author's vision for understanding this definition, which is understood as development based on the preservation of the ecological state of the territories, reducing the anthropogenic negative impact while ensuring the intensification of socio-economic development based on the achievements of innovation and scientific and technical progress.

The presented theoretical and methodological aspects contribute to the development of the theory of sustainable regional development in accordance with the objectives of the Concept of long-term socio-economic development of the Russian Federation. Proposed methodological approaches to systematize the principles of sustainable regional development, reflecting the specification of mountain areas. The detailing of the presented system of principles is of a model nature and can be adapted to changing business conditions. The main methodological aspects and organizational processes of the socio-economic development of mountain territories are presented, which make it possible to identify the main problems and contradictions in the system under study. The main theoretical provisions of the essence of the concept of "sustainable development" of mountain territories are proposed, which allow determining the relationship of all structural elements of balanced functioning and features of the territorial development of these regions. Objective and subjective constraining factors that form the low effectiveness of existing strategic programs for regional development are identified. Organizational processes are outlined to reduce the negative impact of these factors that the system of regional strategizing faces.

4 Conclusions

The main provisions of the scientific novelty in the presented study are as follows: 1) the actualization of the role of the development of mountainous territories in the federal space of the Russian Federation is substantiated, the specificity of the socio-economic development of mountainous regions and their living conditions is determined; 2) the deterrent factors for the effectiveness of the current strategic programs of regional development are identified,

which are: the stereotype of the documents being developed, the low quality of their elaboration, the insufficient level of discussion among interested stakeholders, the high bureaucracy in adopting and amending the strategic documentation. The main limiting factor in the strategic planning system in the Russian Federation is the lack of a normatively fixed concept of "mountainous territories", which is the main obstacle to the formation of special approaches to strategizing mountainous areas, the uniqueness of which should be fully taken into account when developing management development programs; 3) a methodical approach to the systematization of the principles of balanced sustainable development of mountain territories based on the relationship between the components of balanced functioning (innovation, scientific character, intensification) is proposed, which made it possible to substantiate approaches to building models of sustainable development of regional systems. Thus, we have established that mountain territories are characterized by both general (basic) principles inherent in any structural-holistic spatial formations of the single economic space of the state, and specific (derivative) principles that take into account regional features of the development of mountain territories. The main condition for ensuring the effectiveness of the proposed theoretical and methodological approach to determining the sustainability of the development of mountain areas is the coordinated functional interaction of all levels of government that ensure the socio-economic development of subjects.

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